SENATE PLENARY
NOVEMBER 9, 2012

President Bollinger: Okay. We’re ready to go and a number of us have to leave early today and the business is not that pressing. Quickly a motion to –

Another voice: So moved.

Bollinger: Thank you. Okay. That’s a motion to adjourn the meeting. [Laughter] Seconded. Say Aye. Okay, so that’s the adoption of the agenda.

Sharyn O’Halloran: Just to, we’re going to delete the resolution, the amendment on the agenda, delete the electoral resolution. We’ll be coming back to you. We have some edits to handle that. It says it’s on. Is that better? I have to be.

Bollinger: We’re deleting the resolution to amend the Senate Elections Code.

O’Halloran: Okay.

Bollinger: So the agenda is everything but that which means there’s basically no agenda. So, but a motion to adopt the agenda.

Another voice: So moved.

Bollinger: Second. Any objections? Good. My report is brief. I just got back from a trip to Asia and very successful meetings with alumni and the CAA and the new, the center in, well, the center in Beijing has moved to new space. It was wonderful to see that. We have a new director, Joan Kaufman. Wonderful person from the public health side and very, very eager to try to help the university, faculty and students build up our involvement with Asia as part of a network of thinking about global issues. Really lots of progress in building on Columbia’s presence already. I mean, it’s our reputation throughout Asia.

You saw the announcement yesterday that Executive Vice President Nick Dirks will be going to Berkeley as the new chancellor. That’s a great thing for Nick, a great thing for higher education, and I want to thank Nick for his great service to the university and to arts and sciences. That means we have several deanships and positions open. We have a search underway for the dean of the dental school. We have searches underway for the deans of SEAS and Journalism, and now the EVP for Arts and Sciences. John Coatsworth and I will be working with the PDC and the faculty of Arts and Sciences and
others, the College, School of the Arts, the graduate school, on how we go forward from here.

That’s it. I think. And then I have a memorial to read for Jacques Barzun which will require a resolution. Anybody who has been in intellectual academic life no matter what your age, because he passed away at a very, very old age, fortunately. Anybody in this room has been influenced, anybody in this university, anybody in intellectual life has been influenced by Jacques Barzun. And so it has a moment I think for those of us to sort of celebrate the lives that we’ve been privileged to lead. So here’s a resolution in honor of the memory of Jacques Barzun.

RESOLUTION TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF JACQUES BARZUN

WHEREAS, Jacques Martin Barzun CC ’27, M.A. ’28, Ph.D. ’32 spent the majority of his long life in service to Columbia University, as an undergraduate (1923-1927), as a graduate student (1927-1932), as a member of the faculty (1932-1955), as Dean of the Graduate Faculties (1955-1958), as Provost (1958-1967), and as University Professor (1967-1975); and

WHEREAS, Professor Barzun pioneered many of Columbia University’s most venerable traditions, from developing and teaching the precursor to Literature Humanities in 1932, to mercifully sparing hundreds of thousands of graduates of Columbia University from the spring sunshine by changing the color of Columbia’s academic robes from black to light blue; and

WHEREAS, Professor Barzun was the author of more than forty books on a range of subjects, including history, Western culture, music, academic life, research methods, mystery fiction, and baseball; and

WHEREAS, Professor Barzun has been called one of the last century’s premier chroniclers and critics of our modern world – a pioneering cultural historian whose broader metier is deeply humanistic; and

WHEREAS, even following his formal retirement in 1975 and departure to San Antonio, Texas, in 1996, Professor Barzun maintained an active correspondence and continued to publish works of merit and distinction; and

WHEREAS, Professor Barzun inspired numerous tributes and gifts in his name, including the Jacques Barzun Professorship of History and Social Sciences, and the Humanities Scholarship Fund in Honor of Jacques Barzun; and
WHEREAS, over the course of his long life and career, Professor Barzun’s brilliance and accomplishments were always outshone by his humanity, modesty, generosity, and wit;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

That the Columbia University Senate, representing faculty, students, administration, staff, librarians, researchers, and alumni, expresses its deepest condolences to the Barzun family at their loss of a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That the Columbia University Senate venerates the memory of an intellectual giant, an ever-curious scholar, a respected colleague, and a beloved teacher for three-quarters of a century.

So moved. Seconded. All in favor say aye.

Senate: Aye.

Bollinger: Sharyn.

O’Halloran: So thank you. I’m just going to go through quick updates of some of the areas that we’re working on. And so again we’re working on developing the Manhattanville subcommittee, and we’re going to be with Ron on part of the, and be part of the campus planning committee that has gone on. This will be, we’re taking the campus planning task force and sort of reinvigorating it under the standing committee. And so we will be working on its membership and jurisdictions and so forth. And, Ron, did you wish to speak to this?

Ronald Breslow: Yes. I think it’s a very good idea. As we all know, what’s going on in Manhattanville is absolutely critical to the future of Columbia, and we really need to make sure that we have enough input from lots of different groups of people to make sure that there are no mistakes made because it would be a shame to mess up with wonderful opportunity. So we think that having input from all the different sectors of the, of Columbia, and not simply the members of our committee and whatever we can do I think makes a lot of sense. And so we’re delighted to see it. We have set Manhattanville as our primarily concern, but it’s the primary concern of an awful lot of people, and so I think it’s great that we’re going to have this subcommittee handling the particular aspects of it. And I think Lee probably you were in favor of this as I understand it.
Bollinger: Oh, God, I’m in favor of all the discussion we possibly can have. There’s nothing more important that the long-term future and the short-term future.

Breslow: Absolutely.

O’Halloran: It’s definitely a shared enterprise, and we’re willing to work with the, we’re eager to work with the administration and all the members of this committee in pushing this forward. So thank you.

The global initiatives. We’ll be working on, our committee is working. We have a [?] committee now that’s moving forward and working with [?] and all the other principals in it, and hopefully we’ll be having a draft report by December.

The provost’s academic leadership institute, this was an area that I know many people throughout the university have been pushing on, and I would like to thank the provost for taking the leadership on this issue. We had a two-day workshop which went fabulously, and John would you like to speak to this.

John Coatsworth: Thank you for those kind remarks. For me it was a fascinating experience. We had 20 faculty chairs of departments and directors of institutes in Arts and Sciences, and a dozen other vice deans, institute directors, division chairs, and department chairs from across the university. I think what we learned is that we don’t do a very good job of putting our faculty in touch with each other so they can share experiences and knowledge and solutions to problems that come up every day. We’re going to do it again. Those that attended found it to be very valuable. There are a number of things that we don’t do to help faculty chairs to succeed. We’re also thinking about ways that we could be more helpful to new deans. My own experience was quite dramatic. So stay tuned. Thanks.

O’Halloran: Thank you. And online learning. Again this is another area that the Senate is taking up, and we are working, we have a series of areas that we’re looking at: audience, pedagogy, and so the technology aspects of it. And we’re working with Sree, who’s our new chief digital officer, as well as the provost’s office on this. So this will be another that we’ll be coming back to you on.

Smoking policy. We have, we had the review and we are working, external relations is working on a time line and they’re going to be looking (1) at a set of recommendations that will be coming forth. They’re looking to January, at that time, the end of January they’re going to be holding a town hall meeting. They expect on the February 1 to be introducing hopefully some recommendations to the Senate and then perhaps in March we’ll be able to have a vote. So this is a tentative timeline for the smoking policy. Those of you who are interested make sure you reach out to external relations.
Senators’ email privileges. Would you like to give us our update.

Tom Mathewson: This is very quick. CUIT has provided lists for student senators from the College and Engineering School, graduate and undergraduate, to communicate with their constituencies by email, and I am told that a list for SIPA would be available today, and we’ll be about other lists a little bit longer.

O’Halloran: All right. So this is a way for us to reach out to our community and our relevant constituents to make sure they’re aware of what’s going on and to bring back feedback into the senate process. Additional issue is the ARC group, this is the ARC, which is the accounting, the new accounting system that’s been introduced, and Anne Sullivan was not able to be with us today to provide the report, but she did want to make sure, and this was circulated in a letter to all members that if those with questions and concerns for her to reach out. There’s a website and a link that shows what are sort of frequently asked questions and where you can forward any problems or concerns or if in fact you are having ongoing concerns that are not being readily answered. At that public forum you can reach out directly to Anne and she provides her e-mail. So that I would encourage members to actually take advantage of that opportunity, and she’ll most likely be joining us next time. Yes. In the December meeting, and then she’ll provide us with a presentation and give us updates on that. Any concerns or questions about that, or any of those issues? No. We have staff members who did extraordinary and we’d like to congratulate them.

Tom Mathewson: I’d just like to have a minute to brag about the literary productivity of the Senate staff. Justine Blau has just published a book. She calls is mostly true memoir of her childhood. It’s called “Scattered.” She gave a successful reading at Book Culture a couple of weeks ago. The book is now on sale there. And you’ll also see more about it in the University Record in one of the next two issues. And Jessica Raimi has just been published in the Fall 2012 issue of the Antioch Review. She’s written also a memoir, called “Ballet School.” So I encourage you to read their work. [Applause.]

O’Halloran: All right. So thank you. And, yes, Howard.

Howard Jacobson: Did we adopt the minutes?

Bollinger: Yeah, we adopted the minutes, right. Didn’t we adopt the minutes? Yes we did. We adopted the minutes. Yes.

O’Halloran: If any additions, please reach out to Tom. Any questions.
James Neal: This is not a question. It’s just an announcement from the libraries. We have completed a major review and reorganization and hosting an online repository of the central files of the university in the university archives. This is a remarkable record of the history of the university both from the president’s office and the trustees and really documents not only Columbia but the development of higher education and the research university. It is open and available for the search and scholars are coming in from all over the country to use the file.

The second is that we’re working with Tom and the University Senate office to try and reduce all the file cabinets and paper records which are in the Senate office and moving them to the university archives and also not just taking care of the paper records but developing an electronic records program with the Senate. So I just want to let everyone know that’s in motion.

O’Halloran: We’re very thrilled to be working with you. Getting our files searchable and available to all of our members is actually very important for our work. So I want to really thank you and thank your staff for helping us on this. Any other issues or?

Bollinger: Okay. I think unless there are questions and comments I think we’re done. Okay. Thank you very much.

END OF SESSION